



Honey bee swarm, p.12



Co-op roof completed, p.12

COVID-19

## Special City Council Session Devoted to Phase 2 Reopening

by Matthew Arbach

In anticipation of the June 15 modified Phase Two reopening in Prince George's County, the Greenbelt City Council held another special meeting on June 14 to discuss how the city would respond. Council was joined by representatives of the Recreation and Public Works Departments, as well as from the Roosevelt Center Merchants Association. This was an opportunity for the public to hear what staff is proposing, as well as how the city can aid in the recovery of its small businesses.

Outdoor dining, especially at Roosevelt Center, was the first topic. As before, any restaurant that has an already permitted outdoor dining area does not need any further approval from the county or the city, beyond notifying both parties of their intention. A permit first from the county

and then the city is required if an expansion or add-on area is desired. Many Greenbelt restaurants are offering pre-existing outdoor dining or are in the process of obtaining a county permit.

The final decision regarding the expansion of Roosevelt Center restaurants into the plaza area, which is a public park, is still on the table, with council favorable to the idea. There were alternate ideas floated which included use of adjoining streets and surrounding parking lots. Yet, the consensus was that any decisions must be equitable and efficient to all center businesses, not just restaurants. Council was willing to assist in additional picnic seating, but was generally reluctant about providing tents and outdoor restrooms, citing mainly financial challenges.

Council was amenable to food

service, yet on the subject of alcohol service there was general apprehension, if not total disapproval, from Councilmembers Judith Davis and Rodney Roberts. If allowed, the consensus was that alcohol would have to be in specific areas and be tightly monitored as the center is a family hub that services a variety of other businesses that require proper access. Davis stressed that the decision was likely moot, as it would require a change to the city ordinance, as no alcohol is allowed in a public park. She also noted that with the new 50 percent capacity for both indoor and outdoor dining, restaurants like the New Deal Café (NDC) can start to offer alcohol in their permitted areas.

The NDC, represented by  
See COUNCIL, page 6

Black Lives Matter

## Greenbelt East Candlelight Vigil to Continue Each Week

by Gary Childs

*Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web [www.greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com).*

Two weeks ago, two candlelight vigils were conducted in Greenbelt, one at Roosevelt Center and the other in Greenbelt East on the corner of Hanover Parkway and Ora Glen Drive. The vigils were organized as a part of the current national discussion of community policing and justice for people of color. As with many of the national protests and demonstrations, the Saturday night candlelight vigil in Greenbelt East continues to be held and will be observed for the third time this Saturday, June 20, from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Organizer LaWann Stribling said that she is continuing to organize the vigil "prayerfully every Saturday until I feel as though we've reached the community." Acknowledging the challenge of putting together public meetings during a pandemic, Stribling added, "I know it's difficult due to COVID-19 yet it's important to me to help our community to understand how government works and for people of color and those suffering from poverty and even those working paycheck to paycheck that we can be the force to effectively enact permanent change." Stribling reminds participants to wear masks and practice social distancing at the vigil.



PHOTO BY ZIVARE STRIBLING

From left: Kelsye of Mo'chella DC, LaWann Stribling, Mayor Colin Byrd and Ace Ono participate in the June 13 Greenbelt East candlelight vigil.

Stribling said that attendance at the gatherings varies from 20 to 30 people. She said that sometimes a few people make brief comments to the group. At the vigil held last Saturday, Stribling, Mayor Colin Byrd and Ace Kelsye, a singer who performed a few songs for the group, all made brief remarks.

Stribling told the group last week that it would be good to "hear from our community how they would like to express themselves through music, art, dance and spoken word," adding that

"art can bring all types of people together," something she was hoping the weekly vigils would do.

Stribling calls the events Peaceful Candlelight Vigil Protests and hopes that they become opportunities not only for reflection but also impetus for social change.

Along with the vigil, two celebrations of Juneteenth will be held in Greenbelt. One is scheduled for Friday, June 19 at

See VIGIL, page 9



PHOTO BY MELISA YASHINSKI

Melisa Yashinski's five-year-old daughter Violet so loved our back page mask pictures that she requested her turn. From left, Amelia (2), Melisa and Violet wear homemade, matching masks made from an old shirt.

## Budget Adopted with Minor Edits. City Tax Rate Stable

by Diane Oberg

At its June 8 regular meeting the Greenbelt City Council adopted the budget for the fiscal year starting July 1 (FY21) on a 6-0 vote with Councilmember Edward Putens absent due to work obligations. The budget is essentially what City Manager Nicole Ard had proposed to council at the April 14 budget presentation, incorporating the changes she discussed at the April 16 budget overview worksession. In addition, council briefly discussed resident input into council's virtual meetings.

Revenues

The level of uncertainty regarding the estimated revenues is far greater than usual. Revenues are expected to take a major hit due to the impact of the measures taken to combat the coronavirus. These include an anticipated increase in commercial abatements, where businesses can request a reassessment allowing them to lower their property taxes for up to three years. Unlike residential properties, commercial

See BUDGET, page 6

Black Lives Matter

## Mayor Will Host a Forum On Race Relations, Policing

by Julie Rapp

Mayor Colin Byrd will hold a virtual Greenbelt community dialogue on race relations and community policing on Saturday, June 27 at 8:30 p.m. Byrd and a diverse group of Greenbelt residents involved in policing reforms will share their stories and answer questions in an effort to promote improved race relations and policing in Greenbelt. On June 11 Byrd published an update of his proposed legislation, the Greenbelt Fair and Just Policing Act of 2020. The updated document can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/yawssfc3>.

The updates are part of a legislative proposal targeting use of force by Greenbelt police officers. The act would require officers to use de-escalation strategies, limit the use of force and establish a duty to intervene. Under the act, Greenbelt police officers would be required to de-escalate a potentially volatile encounter through the use of strategies intended to decrease

the likelihood that force will be needed. Maneuvers such as chokeholds or carotid restraints that cut off oxygen and blood flow would be prohibited and pulling a gun on an unarmed civilian would be banned.

See FORUM, page 9

### What Goes On

**Saturday, June 20**  
**7 to 8:30 p.m.** Juneteenth Commemoration, Franklin Park Clinic (Outside)  
**Monday, June 22**  
**8 p.m.** Regular City Council Meeting  
**Wednesday, June 24**  
**8 p.m.** Council Worksession: Advisory Board and Committee Chairs  
All meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at [greenbeltmd.gov](http://greenbeltmd.gov) for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



# Letters to the Editor

## Perspective in Color On Greenbelt Police

Ever wonder why Black and Spanish-speaking people have a very different perspective about police, even the police of the City of Greenbelt?

Well, let me share some statistics taken from the Law Enforcement Accreditation Report (CALEA) for 2019-2020 about the Greenbelt Police Department. The numbers that follow are a four-year compilation of the citations given out to either Greenbelt citizens or driving through while Black and Brown.

Over the past four years Black men and women have received 6,996 citations: white men and women have received 1,437 and Spanish speakers have received 2,042. So, people of color either living in or driving through Greenbelt have received 9,038 citations, compared to 1,437 for white people. That reminds me of Ferguson, where Black people received the majority of traffic tickets. The same thing apparently occurs annually in Greenbelt. There is a saying among many in Maryland Black communities that one must be very careful when driving through Greenbelt. The numbers speak for themselves.

Use of force over a four-year period: Black men 42 times; Black women 10 times; white men 3 times; white women 2 times; Spanish-speaking men 5 times; Spanish-speaking women 1 time. Use of force was used on people of color 58 times in comparison to 5 times for white people by the Greenbelt Police Department.

The reason that people of color in Greenbelt and all over the United States of America have a different perception of police is because their everyday interactions with police can lead to their deaths. Every day they have to worry about returning home safely because the color of their skin, no matter their status or professional titles, makes them a target. How many white people have that concern every single day? Not many.

I remember a few years ago, officers burst into a family's home in Franklin Park looking for a suspect; it is alleged that they ignored the parents and were about to arrest their son, when the mother screamed that the name they were using was not her son's. Only then was the young man released. The mother also informed me that the officer (allegedly) stated she can expect such treatment because she lives in a Black neighborhood. (Bet that behavior does not occur in the whiter sections of Greenbelt.) There was a subsequent meeting between the family and Chief Craze of the Greenbelt Police department. He and former chief Kemp thought the meeting went well. After the young man returned to college he was robbed. He refused to call the police to report the robbery. His parents had to drive to the school and help him report the incident. His psyche had been damaged! Too often, encounters with police officers leave people of color traumatized, outraged and angry; that is, if one survives the encounter.

I do hope that residents of Greenbelt have a better understanding now of why many people of color have a different

perspective about police. George Floyd's public lynching by the Minneapolis police demonstrated that our encounters have too often been negative and can lead to death, especially if one lives in what is considered to be a non-white or working-class neighborhood.

I respect the Greenbelt Police department in general; however improvements must be made. There is a need for a real conversation about how people of color are treated and targeted by Greenbelt police officers, and the mayor has submitted a proposal for Fair Policing to begin the dialogue. Now is the time for all to wake up!

Lois Rosado

## Supports Policing Act

This perspective piece is my response in support of Mayor Colin Byrd's proposed Greenbelt Fair and Just Policing Act of 2020, and the recent critique of that plan. As a very active Greenbelt resident, involved in many facets of life within this wonderful city, I feel as though it's my duty to come forward and explain the reasons why this proposed legislation is needed now more than ever, in not only cities across this country, but also, here in Greenbelt, which I affectionately refer to as "The Emerald City." I am a middle-aged Black American man, a part of the millennial generation, and I can see the need for the winds of change that are blowing throughout the country coming and bringing a revolution to the way we police in this country and the law enforcement culture.

While my opinions on this matter are mine alone and do not represent the views or opinions of any of the organizations I'm a part of or serve under, there are many residents that share my views and unfortunately, have had horrible experiences with the police as well.

For many reasons, I feel that now is the time to put this legislation forward. We do have law enforcement officers who continuously step over the bounds of the oath they took to protect and serve, while injuring and sometimes even killing the very residents they have sworn to protect. These officers often have years of complaints against them from the community, yet are never held responsible and eventually cost the cities, counties and states millions of dollars in litigation and lawsuits.

I myself have not encountered any issue locally with officers from the Greenbelt Police, but I'm not of the mind that the lack of personal experiences or personal eye witness doesn't mean that it is not happening or taking place to various degrees within our city and within the county. What this legislation does is ensure that those officers who break their oath and break the law through the commission of unspeakable acts against residents will be held to true accountability. These officers will not be under more protections than the average citizen and have an "Internal investigation" that only results in possible suspension and administrative paid leave.

There was a letter written in a previous issue of the News Review that suggested that this leg-

islation was just a political tool. I completely disagree with that notion. That letter also asked the question, (and I'm paraphrasing), why this legislation was needed now and not before George Floyd. That question doesn't acknowledge the decades long, (if not centuries long), struggle for police reform in this country that is extremely well documented. It is now this moment, at this time, the world finally sees and believes what people of color and their allies have been saying for years – that police who overstep their boundaries and commit crimes against their fellow citizens (whom they were sworn to protect), need to be held accountable.

We have many laws that were passed in reaction to historic moments in time that have led to needed change, such as The Voting Rights Acts, Brown v. Board and most recently Marriage Equality. These historic pieces of legislation aren't political tools – they are life-changing, impactful laws that help and continue to help millions of Americans. We all have the right to our opinion, even if that means we may be on the wrong side of history. But it is still incumbent upon us as a society to move our city to be on the right side of history for the betterment of all who live here.

The previous letter also mentioned that the GPD already has orders in place that address some of the items mentioned in the GFJP Act of 2020. There is a difference between an order and a law. An order is defined as the arrangement or authoritative command, direction or instruction and it is not legally binding. A law, however, is defined as the system of rules which a country or community recognizes

See **LETTERS**, page 8

## Corrections

In last week's article, Peaceful Citywide Protests, representatives of the Greenbelt Bah'ai Fellowship, Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church and St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church were also present as part of the Greenbelt faith community. Also, the sign carried by Reverend Glenyce Grindstaff said, "The Bible is not a Prop."

In the article about Overeaters Anonymous, we should have clarified in a note that the writer is a member of the group.

## Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com) para ver artículos en español.



See our website, [greenbeltnewsreview.com](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com), for articles in Spanish.

## Service or Garden Side?



Social distancing yoga mat.

B. Glee

The News Review received many thoughtful letters concerning racial justice, community policing, and related topics. Because of space constraints we are unable to print all of them this week, but will publish them, as space allows, next week.



## Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.



# Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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Circulation and Distribution information also available at:  
[www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution/](http://www.greenbeltnewsreview.com/contact-us/distribution/)

Published weekly since 1937 by the Greenbelt Cooperative Publishing Association, Inc

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DEADLINES: Letters, Articles and Classified Ads - 8 p.m. Tuesday. Display Ads 4 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Tuesday if camera ready. Materials for publication may be mailed to address above, deposited in our box in the Co-op grocery store (by 7 p.m. Tuesday) or brought to our office in the Community Center, 15 Crescent Road, during office hours. Mail subscriptions—\$50/year.

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.  
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 -10 p.m.



# Community Events

## Democratic Club Picnic To Be Held on Zoom

The Democratic Club’s annual picnic, which will occur Sunday, June 28 at 3 p.m., will happen on Zoom due to the coronavirus. If you’d like to be part of the action, see the club’s website at rooseveltclub.com to access zoom on the day of the event.

Thanks to former Club President Nicole Williams, the program will include Yvette Lewis, chairwoman of Maryland State Democratic Party, who will join us to discuss efforts to help elect former Vice President Joe Biden as the next U.S. President, as well as efforts to help in key states such as Pennsylvania, Virginia and Ohio.

The importance of voting was expressed well by Jon Batiste, band leader for the Stephen Colbert show: “There are three candidates running for President: Trump, Biden and Apathy.” His point simply put: vote.

Locally, the Democratic Club’s leadership, which has reached out to its membership to renew their annual fee, requests members to consider pitching in to its Fala Fund to contribute to key U.S. Senate elections in Arizona, North Carolina, Maine, Colorado and Kentucky. (See Club website.) For more information, call Konrad Herling at 301-345-9369.

## Community Tea

The Community Tea will not meet June 18. Tea resumes Thursday, June 25.

## Mud Cloth Workshop Greenbelt Recreation

Artist-in-residence Karen Arington will teach an online Mud Cloth workshop on Saturday, June 27. Inspired by the bogolanfini tradition from Mali in west Africa, students will learn to paint with pigments made from local mud. The workshop will be held on Zoom and all participants will receive materials needed to work from home. For more information about this and other Greenbelt Recreation classes and workshops, go to greenbeltnmd.gov/recreation and click on Summer Classes. Classes and workshops require registration.

## Discussion to Fight Racism

Greenbelt Community Church (GCC) invites the community for an educational event and discussion on fighting racism on Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m. GCC is partnering with the organization Coming to the Table to raise awareness and work together to fight racism. Jane Carrigan (comingtothetable.org/about-us/) is the distinguished guest speaker. RSVP to kenlittlefield1@aol.com for Zoom meeting information.

June 19 is also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day and Cel-liberation. It is the anniversary of the reading of the Emancipation Proclamation to the people of Texas by General George Granger, officially ending slavery in the last state of the U.S.

☒ I have completed my census

## Virtual Conversation

Join the Old Greenbelt Theatre for a virtual discussion of the documentary *Whose Streets?* with Mayor Colin Byrd and Dr. Dennis Doster, director of the M-NCPPC Black History Program.

Watch *Whose Streets?* on your own (go to [greenbelttheatre.org/films](http://greenbelttheatre.org/films) and click on Virtual Community Conversation to see where to view the film). Then join OGT for the virtual conversation on Friday, June 19 at 7 p.m. The conversation will be livestreamed via Crowdcast at [crowdcast.io/e/ogt-whose-streets](http://crowdcast.io/e/ogt-whose-streets).



## Flick of the Week Film Discussion

The Old Greenbelt Theatre hosts film discussions via Zoom every Sunday at 2 p.m. On Sunday, June 21, the film discussion will be *God’s Own Country* (2017, 104 minutes, NR, CC) in honor of Pride Month. To view the film ahead of the discussion, find links to the film online at [greenbelttheatre.org/film/flick-of-the-week/](http://greenbelttheatre.org/film/flick-of-the-week/).

Go to [greenbelttheatre.org/film/flick-of-the-week/](http://greenbelttheatre.org/film/flick-of-the-week/) to register for the film discussion to receive information on how to access the Zoom call. Those without internet access can participate in the film discussion via phone. Call Kelly at 301-329-2034 to request access information.

### About God’s Own Country

Johnny Saxby works long hours in brutal isolation on his family’s remote farm in the north of England. He numbs the daily frustration of his lonely existence with nightly binge-drinking at the local pub. When a handsome Romanian migrant worker arrives to take up temporary work on the family farm, Johnny suddenly finds himself having to deal with emotions he has never felt before.

## At the Library

Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) launches free digital access to The Washington Post, The New York Times, and 27 Magazines through Flipster, including Essence, Time and People en Español. These new resources are available through the Library’s online News Suite at [pgcmls.info/news-suite](http://pgcmls.info/news-suite). PGCMLS cardholders and Prince George’s County Public Schools students can now access these major publications at home and on the go.

## Ask a Librarian

The Prince George’s County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) provides an Ask a Librarian service. Those with questions about the Library or its services can connect with a librarian to get answers. Call 240-455-5451 Monday through Friday between the hours of 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. Visit [pgcmls.info/656](http://pgcmls.info/656) for service by email.

All PGCMLS virtual programs are listed at [pgcmls.info/virtual-events](http://pgcmls.info/virtual-events). Virtual events produced by the Library are broadcast on Crowdcast, with select additional streams to Facebook, YouTube and Periscope.

# News Review Protects Staff, Keeps the Paper Coming

by Cathie Meetre

As COVID-19 erupted, after first solving the pressing problem of whether or not to capitalize the name, the Greenbelt News Review realized some stark home truths. The most important dawning realization was that our members, mainly retired and older, were extremely vulnerable. The other was that advertising revenue would likely tank to the point that the News Review would lose money, no matter how few pages it printed.

Having not failed to produce a weekly issue since its inception in 1937, the newspaper wasn’t about to allow that to happen. But no newspaper, no matter how cool, is worth a life.

### Quick Off the Mark

The newspaper was quick to react. On March 14, the newsroom was wiped down top to bottom and sanitizing wipes provided so that staff still working onsite from time to time could sanitize their workstations before and after use. With few people using the newsroom, and then only occasionally, and multiple workstations available, cross-contamination is not a huge problem – but no chances were taken. Masks and hand sanitizer were made available.

The newsroom is typically crowded on Tuesday afternoons and evenings as the paper comes together. That also stopped abruptly on March 14 as we shifted to working remotely. On occasions when it is necessary to have people on site, we accommodate a maximum of four in a 24- by 40-foot space.

News Review members are dedicated – and, in one case, a well-known recidivist is still sneaking into the newsroom to work alone late in the evening: an over-50-year habit is hard to break.

### Remote Publishing

Fortunately, the newspaper was at least partially set up for remote work in a strategy to reduce its vulnerability to power outages (which used to be frequent), though not all members who wanted to work could be ac-



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

In this photo from two years ago, the newsroom is crowded on a pre-COVID Tuesday afternoon.

commodated due to complexities involved in sharing copy. The newspaper offered to continue to pay dividends anyway, relying on its cushion of reserves at least for now.

Incoming stories can be processed from email and sent on for remote copy editing.

The ad desk is serviced from within the office, though this generally means only one or two people physically in the room. As the copy is finalized and the

ads nailed down for the week on Tuesday evening, the room is briefly occupied by four people doing the last-minute touches.

Production is done remotely, as has mostly been the case for several years, and final proofing is also currently being done remotely.

The News Review is steering a careful course that lets us publish while keeping our members safe. So far, so good. Touch wood.

# Summer School-based Meal Program Starts on June 29

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) will end the current two-day meal distribution program Wednesday, June 17. Following a one-week break to complete year-end activities, PGCPS will operate the annual Summer Food Service Program from Monday, June 29 through Thursday, August 13. Students may go to their nearest school, which is not necessarily the one they attend during the school year.

“Grab and go” breakfast and lunch meals will be available Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to noon at 87 school sites and 12 apartment complexes. To view the complete list of sites, go to [pgcps.org/food-and-nutrition/cards/](http://pgcps.org/food-and-nutrition/cards/)

Summer-Meals/. Greenbelt and vicinity schools operating the program include Springhill Lake Elementary, Berwyn Heights Elementary, Greenbelt Middle School, Greenbelt Elementary School, Magnolia Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary and Turning Point Academy.

To bridge the gap in meal service, PGCPS families can access seven community sites from Monday, June 22 through Friday, June 26. The sites will offer lunch and a snack from noon to 2 p.m. None of these sites is in Greenbelt.

Updates to services and sites will be provided as information becomes available. For more information, visit [pgcps.org/foodandnutrition](http://pgcps.org/foodandnutrition).

| GATe GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION<br>Friday June 19 - Thursday June 25   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE  |   | CONNECT WITH GATe ON   |
| 7 am  | Greenbelt Newsreel  | • or Selections From the GATe Archive  |
| 8 am  | Democracy Now!  | • Repeat of Yesterday's Program  |
| 9 am  | GATe Classic Film ★<br><small>Animation/Fleischer Bros • 1932</small> | • The Best of Betty Boop • Classic Movies<br>• Ron MacCloskey interviews Lauren Rabinowitz   |
| 11 am   | Greenbelt Newsreel  | • or Selections From the GATe Archive  |
| SAT/SUN   | Member Spotlight  | • GATe Community Producers   |
| 12 pm   | Democracy Now!  | • Today's Program • Independent News   |
| 1 pm  | Science Bowl PGCPS  | • Greenbelt v Kenmoor • Martin Luther King v Oxon Hill   |
| 2 pm  | Greenbelt Newsreel  | • or Selections From the GATe Archive  |
| 3 pm  | GATe Classic Film ★<br><small>Animation/Fleischer Bros • 1932</small> | • The Best of Betty Boop • Classic Movies<br>• Ron MacCloskey interviews Lauren Rabinowitz   |
| 5 pm  | Science Bowl PGCPS  | • Greenbelt v Kenmoor • Martin Luther King v Oxon Hill   |
| SAT/SUN   | Member Spotlight  | • GATe Community Producers   |
| 6 pm  | Greenbelt Newsreel  | • or Selections From the GATe Archive  |
| 7 pm  | Democracy Now!  | • Today's Program • Independent News   |
| 8 pm  | GATe Classic Film ★<br><small>Animation/Fleischer Bros • 1932</small> | • The Best of Betty Boop • Classic Movies<br>• Ron MacCloskey interviews Lauren Rabinowitz   |
| 10 pm   | Democracy Now!  | • Today's Program • Independent News   |
| 11 pm   | Greenbelt Newsreel  | • or Selections From the GATe Archive  |
| 12 am   | Greenbelt Newsreel  | • or Selections From the GATe Archive  |
| WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77<br>STREAMING LIVE at <a href="http://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream">www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream</a> |   |  |



Our Neighbors

We were saddened to learn of the death of longtime Lakeside resident David Sagal Falk and offer our sympathies to his family and friends.

The community also suffered a loss in the death of Bob Greig, active in so many things during his long residence in the city. Our condolences to family and friends.

Happy Birthday to Mame Ellis who recently celebrated her 99th with friends and family.

Congratulations to Dr. Nia M. Billings, daughter of Greenbelt resident Phyllis Billings, who was awarded a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., on December 10, 2019. Her dissertation was Multicultural Face Recognition Memory and Own-Race-Bias Among Adults with Acquired Brain Injury. Nia



PHOTO BY PHYLLIS BILLINGS

Dr. Nia M. Billings is wreathed in smiles after graduating with her Ph.D.

is also a graduate of Eleanor Roosevelt High School and Loyola University in Baltimore.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

David Falk



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

David Sagal Falk

David Sagal Falk died on June 10, 2020, in his Greenbelt home, where he resided for 56 years. Born September 10, 1932 in New York City, Mr. Falk was acting assistant vice chancellor for Academic Affairs as well as professor and associate chairman of the Physics Department at the University of Maryland. As a Greenbelter, he was active in the Lakeside Citizens Association. He enjoyed SAGE classes offered through the Recreation Department, particularly enjoying some of the music appreciation classes. Throughout, he retained his memorable sense of humor.

He is survived by his wife Nancy Falk; brother Stanley (and family); children Birgit Sharp (Ron) and Sam Falk (Kelly); and four grandchildren Elias, Dylan, Bailey and Zoe.

In lieu of flowers, memorial trees may be planted in his memory at American Forests (see americanforests.org/ways-to-give/memorial-gift-trees/).

Obituaries

Joseph Robert Greig

Joseph Robert Greig was born April 12, 1938, and died on May 28, 2020. Known as “Bob” to most of his friends and family. Dad to the rest of us. He lived a full life.

Bob was passionate about education, receiving his Ph.D. in physics from Imperial College of London, England, with advanced degrees in chemistry and mathematics. In his early years, Bob taught at the University of Maryland and worked at the Naval Research Laboratory before moving into the private sector. He was extremely proud to have transitioned into medical physics at the age of 60, spending the last two decades working in radiological cancer treatment.

Bob was a devoted husband to his wife, Joy. The two met as young teenagers – Joy’s father was Bob’s scoutmaster when he was 13! They married in March 1964 and were together for 52 years until Joy’s death in 2016.

Bob was a dedicated father to Elizabeth, Andrew and Katherine and their spouses Richard Moore, Colleen Greig and Richard Pfeil; and a devoted grandfather to



PHOTO COURTESY THE FAMILY

Joseph Robert "Bob" Greig and his wife Joy

Caitlin Moore, Bradley Moore, Morgan Greig and Lauren Greig. He is survived by his brother, Stuart, and sister, Josie. He was also a loving companion to Jean Stoll until her death in April 2019.

Bob was an active part of his community and took great pride in his friendships new and old. He was always compelled to help and believed strongly in the need to be socially compassionate, supportive and responsible. Over the years he was a coach,

See OBITs, page 7



PHOTO BY BARBARA FORD

Mame Ellis and her family celebrate her birthday. From left, daughter Mary Boswell, granddaughter Lyndsey Boswell Workman, Mame Ellis, son-in-law Dickey Boswell and great-granddaughter Terese Workman (front).

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church  
40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt



Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors  
Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)  
301-474-9410



Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.  
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.  
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church



Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community



June 21 10 a.m.  
"Next Steps"

Rev. Rachel Christensen and Facilitator Barry Finkelstein; with Worship Associate Clark Ritz

Join Rev. Rachel and Consultant Barry Finkelstein as we talk about next steps for Paint Branch in moving toward capital improvements to our facilities. Online only service, streaming information available at <http://bit.ly/PBJune2020>

Mishkan Torah Congregation



10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770  
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm  
Saturday morning services at 10:00am  
All services and activities are currently virtual  
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 [www.mishkantorah.org](http://www.mishkantorah.org)  
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism



This week we offer a prayer for our time from the words of Abdu'l-Baha:

O Thou kind Lord! Thou hast created all humanity from the same stock. Thou hast decreed that all shall belong to the same household. In Thy Holy Presence they are all Thy servants... all have gathered together at Thy Table of Bounty; all are illumined through the light of Thy Providence.

"O Thou kind Lord! Unite all. Let the religions agree and make the nations one, so that they may see each other as one family and the whole earth as one home. May they all live together in perfect harmony.

Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

[Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com](mailto:Greenbelt.Bahai.Info@gmail.com) [www.greenbeltbahais.org](http://www.greenbeltbahais.org)

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

The Bible Says...

Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. James 5:16



Sunday Worship Services  
10a-11a ONLINE  
[MCFcc.org/online](http://MCFcc.org/online)

Greenbelt Community Church

Our Sunday Worship Services are Cancelled until Further Notice



Check us out on Facebook Live  
Sunday at 10:30 AM  
<https://www.facebook.com/GCCUCCMD>

1 Hillside Road

301-474-6171

Rev. Glennyce Grindstaff

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am  
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.

[www.sthughofgrenoble.org](http://www.sthughofgrenoble.org)



Worship with us at  
Greenbelt Baptist Church



Live online services  
Sundays at 10:30am  
Wednesdays at 7:00pm  
[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)  
Instagram/Facebook/YouTube

101 Greenhill Rd., Greenbelt MD 20770

[www.greenbeltbaptist.org](http://www.greenbeltbaptist.org)

301-474-4212

@GreenbeltBaptist



City Notes

With six new stray kittens, the Animal Shelter now hosts four cats and 12 kittens. One cat and three kittens are fostered.

Sustainability/Environmental planted native plants for pollinators.

Youth Recreation Programs ordered supplies for free Summer Activity Kits and the Zoom Ukulele classes are under way. The Community Center continued registration for virtual summer programs. With 142 people registered, at least 14 Arts classes will run.

At the Aquatic & Fitness Center, the outdoor baby pool is ready for reopening.

Therapeutic Recreation provided meals for 36 seniors and promoted healthy activities.

Park Rangers' weekend welcome table at Buddy Attick Park offered information and face masks. Despite posted warnings, visitors are using grills, playgrounds and walking on the exposed lakebed; rangers continue to intervene.

At GAIL's Emergency Diaper Supply, 36 qualified families received diapers. CARES's Judy Hering now offers GED and ESOL classes on Google Classroom.

Baseball and Reading At the Virtual Library

The 2019 World Series Champion Washington Nationals and Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) are proud to provide creative ways for Prince Georgians to stay connected with baseball and reading this summer. The Nationals and PGCMLS are partnering to present Imagine Your Story, a virtual Summer @ Your Library (S@YL) program in English and Spanish for all ages that runs through August 21. Imagine Your Story is the first online-only summer reading and engagement program in the history of the PGCMLS, ensuring that all Prince Georgians can safely engage with the library and the beloved hometown baseball team as the community recovers from the public health emergency.

The Washington Nationals are generously making a wide range of online content available for Prince Georgians through S@YL with the PGCMLS, including storytimes with the World Series Champs, reading activities in English and Spanish and reading recommendations for kids through adults.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.  
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

GREENBELT

FARMERS MARKET

10-2 Sunday.

Parking lot by Roosevelt Center

Masks, distancing required. Entry metered.

Greenbeltfarmersmarket.org

We accept/match SNAP

# City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

## GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING and ADOPTION OF FY 2021 BUDGET

Monday, June 22, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

### ORGANIZATION

Call to Order  
Roll Call  
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag  
Consent Agenda – Approval of Staff Recommendations (Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by \*] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)  
Approval of Agenda and Additions

### COMMUNICATIONS

#### Presentations

#### Petitions and Requests

(Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)

#### \* Minutes of Council Meeting

#### Administrative Reports

#### Committee Reports

\* Advisory Planning Board Report #2020-02 (Greenbelt NCO Zone)

### LEGISLATION

- End of the Year Budget Adjustments
- 1st Reading, Suspension of the Rules
- 2nd Reading, Adoption

### OTHER BUSINESS

- Arts Advisory Board (AAB) – Report 20-2 (Recommendations Enhancements to Lighting in Roosevelt Center)
- Composting USDA Grant Application
- Audit Services for FY 2020
- GATe Board Appointment
- Fourth of July Crowd Control at Buddy Attick Park
- Review and Approval of Request for Proposal (RFP) for Refinancing City of Greenbelt, Maryland, Refunding Bond of 2011 and Taxable General Obligation Pension Refunding Bond of 2013
- Collective Bargaining Agreement - Greenbelt Police Department
- Council Activities
- Council Reports

### COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL

Cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and streamed at [www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv) as it happens.

**Resident participation: Join By Phone: (301) 715-8592**  
**Webinar ID: 850 2863 8642 Password: 372958**

In advance the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email [banderson@greenbeltmd.gov](mailto:banderson@greenbeltmd.gov)

### Upcoming Virtual Meetings

Monday, June 22 at 8:00pm, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING.** Virtual meeting will be shown on Comcast 71 and 996, Verizon 21 and Stream on [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)

Tuesday, June 23 at 3:30pm, **SENIOR CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** Agenda items will be posted at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)

Tuesday, June 23 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.** On the Agenda: Student Awards, Elections, & Liaisons, and Updates – Clubs, Grants

Wednesday, June 24 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION with Advisory Boards & Committees.** Virtual meeting will be shown on Comcast 71 and 996, Verizon 21 and Stream on [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)

Thursday, June 25 at 7:00pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD.** On the Agenda: Green Mechanics site proposal, Delineating Community Garden and Forest Preserve boundaries, Proposed new tracts: Shrom Hills & Greenbriar, Soliciting public comment for Master Trails Plan: GNR, email, city website, FB, Park Rangers' Meet and Greet, Website update, Science Fund 2020 publicity via social media or other, and Grant proposals for storm water management.

All meetings are held virtually. For information on public participation see the meetings calendar at [www.greenbeltmd.gov](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov)

### VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on: Arts Advisory Board, Board of Elections, Forest Preserve Advisory Board, Public Safety Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Youth Advisory Committee

**For more information call 301- 474-8000**

## GREENBELT RECREATION

**SUMMER CONNECT**

### Our Summer Camp Plan

**2020**

### Greenbelt Recreation Announces

Visit the Virtual Recreation Center, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) to learn about summer fun plans for youth ages 3 through 17 years.

For the first time, anyone near or far, can attend our summer camps!

Reach out to invite faraway friends and family to join your child for camp this summer! Enrollment is ongoing. Call 301-397-2200 for more information.

## Seniors Avoiding Isolation by Navigating Technology SAINT Pilot Project

Amazon ECHO SHOW 8

Free Comcast Internet Essential Service ( for 1 year)

+

The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) Program is launching a pilot program for 50 seniors 60+ or disabled adults 50+ living in incorporated Greenbelt to provide:

- Free Comcast Internet Essentials for one year
- Amazon Echo Show to link residents with family and friends, classes, music and more.

Households must have a smart phone not a flip phone and participate in one of the following to enroll:

**SNAP—Food Stamps, Section 8 Housing, Medicaid, SSI, or Veterans Pension Recipient**

For more information please contact Sharon Johnson, Community Case Manager

## Join us for our Juneteenth Program

**Saturday, June 20 7:00pm**

**Franklin Park Clinic 9220 Springhill Lane (Outside)**

Featuring: Drum Circle – Praising the Ancestors; Rev. Ray Raysor - Opening Prayer, Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation and the importance of Juneteenth; Lois Rosado – Poem: “Let America Be America Again” by Langston Hughes; Mayor Colin Byrd – Remarks; Aaron Tinch, Pastor at Rivers of Life AME Church - Closing Prayer

## Let's Tackle Anger for teens

**Mondays Starting on June 29 5:00pm-6:15pm**

**Program will be held via Zoom for nine weeks. Contact CARES 301-345-6660 CARES@greenbeltmd.gov**

**NOTICE: THE 4TH OF JULY FIREWORKS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. PLEASE LOOK FOR VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES AT [WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/RECREATION](http://WWW.GREENBELTMD.GOV/RECREATION)**

### Greenbelt Recreation

## Guide to SUMMER ARTS CLASSES

Music, Dance, Visual Arts and Ceramics for All Ages

Live on Zoom!

Registration now underway!

Visit [www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation) to download the the guide.

A wide variety of programs for all ages are available!

Classes begin on or after June 15, 2020



## COUNCIL continued from page 1

Board Director Tom LeaMond, made a plea for assistance from the city to aid businesses to recover, something to which the city is committed. NDC asked for an expansion of their patio (which the city generally agrees with and whose prior approval is needed before applying for a county permit), the setting up of a low volume music stage and two outdoor restrooms.

The music proposal experienced some pushback from Gretchen Schock of Bee Yoga Fusion, as it can interfere with their work due to the possible noise level. Compromises to keep it to weekends and evenings, and/or to the parking lot areas were proposed.

Leah Moon from DC Vegan said that even at the new 50 percent capacity indoor/outdoor allowance, this would not be a sustainable, survivable percentage.

Mayor Colin Byrd said he was aware that local businesses are doing the best they can at the moment and pledged city assistance.

Houses of worship are now allowed at 25 percent capacity, with Davis stressing that they are not businesses, but private entities.

Recreation Department’s Joe McNeal and Greg Varda gave an update on their current plans. Regarding the Aquatic & Fitness Center, the opening of the outdoor pool was set tentatively for early July. Lap swimming

will be attempted first, with eight to 10 people at a time, requiring a reservation for an hour session, with a half hour cleaning between sessions. Members and residents will be given priority for the time being, with special consideration shown for seniors; memberships will be extended to preserve the 12-month payment. Staff will need to be trained in safe, COVID-related procedures, like rescues. Showering may be offered outside or required before using the facility. The elimination of touch points is the focus; patrons will need to bring their own chairs.

Doubles tennis at the courts was voted into reopening as was the skate park with appropriate signage and limited capacity, both deemed relatively safe. Playground use is being looked at, but will probably entail parent responsibility in their use; Public Works is still committed to an electrostatic cleaning two to three times a day.

Varda asked for a safety plan from all youth groups that will be reviewed by his staff.

The Community Center will likely experience a phased re-opening with limited entrance and exit, with the Senior Center remaining closed until the end of the state of emergency.

Varda reassured council of his department’s resiliency and ability to change quickly in this uncertain time.

## BUDGET continued from page 1

properties are assessed based upon the revenue stream they are expected to generate. Staff estimated such abatements at \$1.5 million.

Other taxes such as admissions and amusement taxes, hotel/motel tax, income tax and highway user revenues (from gas tax) together are expected to lessen revenues by \$1.3 million. Fees, such as recreation fees, parking citations and red light and speed camera fines are also expected to be lower than usual, further lessening revenues by \$842,200.

On the plus side, the city will not have to transfer funds from its operating budget to reserve funds to support certain expenditures nor match funds from a grant request that was denied. Together these will improve revenues from the originally proposed budget by \$364,700. The fine for parking tickets will be raised \$10 to \$50. A motion by Councilmember Rodney Roberts to remove this increase from the budget was defeated on a 2-3 vote, with Councilmember Silke Pope away from the call due to a household emergency.

These changes, along with lower than expected interest and health insurance costs result in estimated FY21 revenues of \$29.6 million.

### Expenditures

In order to balance the budget, Ard proposed and council adopted deferring almost any expenditure that it could. Most vacant positions, except for recreation director and an animal control officer, will be left unfilled. Only essential travel and training will be funded. Training required to obtain certifications and/or comply with licensing requirements is considered essential. All staff salary increases (cost of living and merit) will be deferred as will all purchases from the replacement fund and capital and building reserve projects not funded by grants. The planned compensation study will be deferred, and the architectural space study will be deleted though some or all of it may be done using capital funds.

These cuts resulted in estimated expenditures of \$28.8 million, leaving a cushion of \$480,035 before having to use reserve funds and an anticipated end-of-year reserve balance of 15.3 percent of expenditures.

### Public Hearing

Prior to taking up the budget, council held a public hearing, as required by state law, on the fact that, although the tax rate will not change, higher assessments will increase property tax revenues by \$419,002. To avoid increasing revenues solely due to assessment increases, the city would need to reduce its tax rate from the current rate of \$0.8275 per \$100 of assessed value to \$0.8076 per \$100.

Boxwood resident Rebecca Duncan called upon council both at the meeting and in an email to lower its tax rate to the constant yield rate. She noted that, since she purchased her home in 2004, her property taxes had risen each year due to increases in assessed valuations and/or the city tax rate. She noted that many homeowners have lost their jobs and are struggling to keep afloat. She accused the state and city governments of capriciously raising assessments and rates to get additional revenues. Maintaining a budget that is filled with “nice to haves” has got to stop. “I’m not seeing the value and I’m the one footing the bill,” she wrote.

Resident Daniel Thies suggested that council consider adopting a “land value tax” which would allow the city to get revenue from parts of the city that are undeveloped or underutilized. Currently, this is only used in Pennsylvania, he said. Resident Bill Orleans raised his annual call for council to more aggressively fight business requests to lower their assessed valuation.

Councilmember Emmett Jordan moved that council lower the city tax rate noting that Greenbelt has the 14th highest tax rate among the 150 municipalities in the Maryland Municipal League. His motion failed on a 2-4 vote with Jordan and Mayor Colin Byrd voting aye.

The councilmembers voting against the motion had two major concerns. The first was that Jordan had not raised this proposal until late in the budget process so there had been no discussion of possible further cuts needed in response to the revenue loss. The second was that there is still a lot of uncertainty as to how quickly the county will reopen and how quickly businesses and residents will resume their pre-pandemic normal patterns of income and expenditures. Jordan had called for funding this change by drawing down city reserves, a move Roberts said would be irresponsible. Revenue shortfalls in the current fiscal year have already reduced the reserves significantly.

Councilmembers Judith Davis and Leta Mach pointed out that to cut expenditures further, the city would have to lay off staff, which council has generally tried to avoid. The councilmembers agreed that the budget will be reviewed as the fiscal year progresses so that they can make any necessary adjustments due to higher- or lower-than projected revenues.

### Zoom Meetings

Council appears to be getting somewhat better at meeting over Zoom, with fewer calls for councilmembers to unmute themselves. Residents generally participate by phone, with no ability to electronically raise their hands for recognition. Byrd suggested that callers mute themselves. If they do not, he must mute those on the phone to eliminate the background noise.

### Other Actions

Director of Public Works Jim Sterling reported that the work on the dam in Buddy Attick Park is complete, save for repairing some cracks in the spillway.

Council accepted the Advisory Planning Board’s report on the county planning staff’s draft Neighborhood Conservation Overlay Zone, to be discussed at a future council meeting, and gave final approval to a resolution supporting the 10-year designation of a State Enterprise Zone within the city’s boundaries.

| Topic                            | Activities and Constraints  |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Outdoor dining in general        | If no outdoor dining area already approved needs city/county permission to implement or extend. If approved, okay.  |
| Outdoor dining, Roosevelt Center | Expansion generally okay with council but not yet approved. Doubt as to provision of additional city facilities, e.g. tents etc.                                    |
| Alcohol in Roosevelt Center      | May require change to city ordinances. 50 percent capacity rule for indoor and outdoor seating permits alcohol where already permitted                              |
| Houses of Worship                | Services now allowed at 25 percent of capacity  |
| Pool                             | Tentatively early July. Proposed limited number of patrons, one-hour sessions, cleaning gaps, possibly outside showering required prior to entry. Bring own chairs. |
| Tennis Courts                    | Doubles tennis now allowed.   |
| Playgrounds                      | Opening remains under scrutiny. Electrostatic cleaning multiple times daily is planned.   |
| Community Center                 | Phased re-opening. Senior Center remains closed until state of emergency is lifted.   |



Is your next customer worth \$30? Place this ad and find out.

[www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com](http://www.GreenbeltNewsReview.com)

## Important Shred Day Announcement

**Shred Day has been canceled until further notice.**

We will keep you informed of when the next event will be taking place.

If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact the credit union.

**Greenbelt Federal Credit Union**  
112 Centerway  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-474-5900  
[www.greenbeltfcu.com](http://www.greenbeltfcu.com)

### Public Notice

Notice of Applications Received for a Forest Conservation Plan Approval and the Opportunity to Provide Written Comment or Request an Information Hearing.

**Issue Date:** June 15, 2020

The Maryland Department of Natural Resources - Forest Service is reviewing the following applications for a Forest Conservation Program Plan Approval. The applications and related information are on file at the Southern Region Forestry Education Office of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Forest Service, 8023 Long Hill Road, Pasadena, MD 21122. Arrangements may be made for inspections and copying of file materials.

Opportunity is afforded to interested parties to provide written comments on the lists application(s), or to be placed on the interested persons list for a specific application. If requesting to be placed on the interested persons list, please clearly state this request in written form. Any request for a hearing must be in writing and provide the following information: 1) Name, Address and Telephone Number of the person making the request; 2) The identity of any other person(s) the requestor is representing; and 3) State specifically the issue proposed to be considered at the hearing. If a hearing is scheduled, sign language interpreters and other appropriate accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request.

**Written comments, requests to be placed on the interested persons list, or requests for a hearing must be received on or before July 14, 2020.** Correspondence should be addressed to the Maryland Department of Natural Resources-Forest Service, State Forest Conservation Program, Tawes State Office Building, 580 Taylor Avenue, E-1, Annapolis, MD 21401.

Any further notices concerning actions on the following applications will be provided only by mail to those persons on the interested persons list.

**Application received:**

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center proposes to relocate the main gate located off Icesat Road, Greenbelt, MD 20771 and to enhance certain security features. The site is bounded by Icesat Road to the East, Explorer Road to the North, Greenbelt Road to the South and NASA Goddard facilities to the West. The project will occur on a total of 4.35 acres, affecting 0.77 acres of 0.77 acres of existing forest as part of a Forest Conservation Plan (S19-16) submitted to the State of Maryland Forest Conservation Program. The site is located in the Patuxent River Watershed, Western Branch Sub-watershed (#02131103). Information about this project may be obtained by contacting the Southern Region Urban and Community Forestry Coordinator at (410) 360-9774 or the State Forest Conservation Program Coordinator at (410) 260-8511.



From the Archives

# Library to Celebrate Its 50 Years in Today’s Building

by Jeannette Connors

April 2020, marked a milestone anniversary of the Greenbelt Library at its current location. The library has come a long way from its first humble abode nestled in the northeast corner of the Center Elementary School (now the Community Center) to its own two-level building with a capacity of 125,000 books and materials, a roomy children’s section, free classes and clubs for children, teens and adults and much more.

Patrons crossing the threshold of the cheerful and spacious library today may find it hard to imagine that for over 30 years the Greenbelt Library, opened in 1939 and operated as a city-maintained facility, was located inside the Center School in a 1,000 square foot space that held only 14,000 books. A grant provided by the Farm Security Administration, along with funds from the 1939 town budget, paid for a preliminary order of books, shelving and library supplies. Within a year of its opening, the library had more than 23,000 patrons. Greenbelt librarians were busy with the 350 students at the school during the day and an average evening attendance of 95 adults. The most popular selections of reading material at that time were biographies, literature and travel books.

By 1945, it was the county’s largest library and in 1955 joined the Prince George’s County Memorial Library System. Even so, by this time, county system staff described it as overcrowded and, due to its location inside a school, it had accompanying heating and lighting problems. In a peculiar twist to these descriptions, one that might make its way into the very novels lining the shelves, the staff also said that adults had “a psychological block about entering libraries located in schools.” If this is accurate, it surely added to the reasons to consider the move to a more suitable location. Interest in a new library in Greenbelt grew and, in 1963, citizens formed a Library Association and the Greenbelt Advisory Planning Board appointed a library subcommittee.

One of the issues surrounding the new library was location, location, location – something that for years would hinder the move to a new site. A number of areas were proposed and rejected for various reasons. Among the vetoed sites: the wooded area behind what is now the Greenbelt Arts Center because it was too far from the Center; a site near the fire department, again because of its distance from the Center, as well as the continuous disturbance of the sirens; and land near the National Guard Armory, because of the danger to pedestrians of a building near a busy intersection.

Another suggested site was land next to the post office owned by Greenbelt Consumer Services (now the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative, or Co-op). There was discussion of whether to spend the \$15,000 to acquire the land; however, there was quite a lot of citizen pushback, given that city-owned sites al-



As these photos taken in 1942 show, the library served both the elementary school and, then, the entire community after school.

- Photos by Marjory Collins, courtesy of the Library of Congress



ready existed that might have been better options. In the end, the site ultimately chosen – and where the library stands today – was made available by the County Board of Education.

Obtaining the required funds was another obstacle in the realization of the new library. Through the tireless efforts of citizens groups, county representatives and the county legislative delegation, the financing issue was resolved and in late 1965, the necessary resources were earmarked for a new library in Greenbelt in the following year’s county budget.

Five years later, on Wednesday, April 8, 1970, after closing for a week to move from the Center School to the new building, the Greenbelt Library opened.

The library recently underwent renovations including a revamped main section and updated children’s section, as well as new carpeting and new shelving. A

celebration to mark the 50th anniversary will take place at the Library on a date to be determined.

The information in this article was obtained from articles published in the Greenbelt Co-operator in 1938-1940 and in News Reviews from 1964-1970. Digital versions of nearly all issues of these papers are available at [greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives](http://greenbeltnewsreview.com/archives), although the text in some pdfs is hard to read. Newly scanned papers from 1964-1993 have been posted on the Internet Archive ([archive.org/details/greenbelt-news-review](http://archive.org/details/greenbelt-news-review)) as part of the Greenbelt Archive Project (see [greenbeltarchive.org](http://greenbeltarchive.org)). New scans of Cooperators from 1937-1943 can be viewed at [chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89061521](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn89061521). For more information contact [newsreview.archive@gmail.com](mailto:newsreview.archive@gmail.com).



## Rally for Justice



Participants prepare for the Greenbelt Rally for Justice in front of Mishkan Torah. Rabbi Saul Oresky stands in the doorway.

- Photos by Melanie Hall



Yael Fischman, Jonathan (Yoni) Charry, Avigayil Fischman-Charry and Nava Fischman-Charry participate in the June 7 event.

## Obits cont'd from p.4

mentor and teacher. He participated in everything from Girl Scouts, Indian Guides, soccer, track and science fairs to tax preparation, wine club and his physics friends, caregivers and widowers clubs. He always wanted to be useful to someone and truly believed that if he could help provide any comfort or information that it was worth doing.

There were no short conversations with Bob. He could spend an hour just catching up with you because he enjoyed your company and friendship, purely and genuinely.

The family will be hosting a memorial service via Zoom on Saturday, June 27 at 1 p.m. Contact the family via email: [link2kate@gmail.com](mailto:link2kate@gmail.com) with any questions and for the memorial service login information, or check the Greig Family Facebook page prior to the service. An in-person Celebration of Life memorial service will be held after pandemic restrictions have been lifted. Details will be shared via the Greig Family Facebook page and through the Greenbelt News Review.

- Kate Greig

### James Cooley

James Lawrence Cooley, longtime Greenbelt resident and NASA mathematician, died of complications of COVID-19 on April 28, 2020.

He was born in Northampton, Mass., and raised in a rural area in nearby Pelham. He graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst with a bach-

elor’s degree in math in 1960 and married fellow student Brenda Brizzolari a year later, after she earned her degree in education.

Mr. Cooley earned a master’s degree in math from Pennsylvania State University in 1962 and the couple settled in Maryland the following year when he landed a job with NASA as the nation was making a push to put men on the moon.

For more than three decades, Mr. Cooley devoted his mathematics talent to the nation’s space program, tackling challenges such as the orbital mechanics of satellites and puzzling out various aspects of mission design for Goddard Space Flight Center. By the time he retired from Goddard in 1997, Mr. Cooley had risen to become an aerospace engineer with supervisory duties.

The Cooleys spent the next 20 years living in retirement in Greenbelt, relishing visits from their children and grandchildren and rooting for the Terrapins sports teams at the University of Maryland. For many years, Mr. Cooley also enjoyed jogging and wine tasting. A few years ago, the Cooleys moved to the Riderwood retirement community in Silver Spring.

He is survived by his wife, his daughter Deborah Cooley of Greenbelt and son Andrew of Crofton, two granddaughters and a great-grandson. The family was unable to say goodbye to their father in person because of pandemic restrictions. They plan to bury his remains in his native Massachusetts at some point soon.



# Letters continued from page 2

as regulating the actions of its members that may be enforced by the imposition of penalties such as convictions or prison time. We cannot lose sight that laws are stronger than orders that can be consistently and quickly changed by a non-elected official such as a police chief, watch commander or commissioner.

This Act will be a law that will officially be put in place by our elected officials, (whom we voted in to pass laws to protect all of us), and will properly hold all offending officers accountable to the full extent of the law they have sworn to uphold. The GFJP Act is important because it is a law, not an order that can be ignored. Our mayor of Greenbelt, of our own Emerald City, has stated that our city is the Greatest City on Planet Earth and our city deserves to have laws that protect and hold accountable all of its residents, equally. Our city deserves to be on the right side of history.

*B. Ric Gordon*

**Another Perspective**

I am writing in response to the article in the June 11 Greenbelt News Review from retired Greenbelt Police Officer, John Rogers (Mayor's Draft: Reasonable Proposal or Political Tool?). Mr. Rogers gave his perspective on Mayor Colin Byrd's frontpage article in the June 4 News Review (Byrd: Floyd Death a Horrific Tragedy/ Our Way Forward) where the mayor announced his proposed legislation, the "Greenbelt Fair and Just Policing Act of 2020."

While Mr. Rogers is entitled to his opinion, I believe he grossly mischaracterized Byrd's words and motivations. I encourage others to judge for themselves by reading both articles.

The goals of the mayor's legislation are to "help protect the civil rights of civilians in Greenbelt and to address issues of police accountability, misconduct and use of force." The components of the proposed legislation are in service to those worthy goals. Mr. Rogers' critique never addressed the substance or worthiness of the legislative components. Instead, he argued that the legislation was unnecessary because some (notably not all) of the components are already in the Greenbelt Police Department's General Orders.

What Mr. Rogers leaves out is that there is a very important distinction between General Orders and legislation that speaks to the necessity of the legislation. Changes to General Orders can be unilaterally made by the police chief at any time and without public input. Changes codified in legislation require direct council action giving greater accountability to the public. Further, while the Police Chief directly reports to a single person, councilmembers have a greater level of accountability to Greenbelt residents as a whole.

So while Mr. Rogers pointedly accuses the mayor of trying to "mislead the public into believing" there is a need for legislation, I would argue it is Mr. Rogers who has tried to mislead the public into believing that there is no benefit to legislation. Additionally, the mayor made a symbolic case for the need of the

legislation saying, "I believe that to put a comprehensive law like this on the books that addresses these issues elevates the seriousness with which the city takes these issues, and it puts a greater premium on officers doing the right thing."

Mr. Rogers then resorted to personal attacks, cynically questioning Byrd's motivations by stating that his proposed legislation "appears to serve no other purpose than to be a political tool designed to take advantage of tragedy and create dissension and division between the Greenbelt Police Department and the civilian populace."

Putting aside that the politically safe play would probably be to keep silent on the hot-button issue of police reform, I found the mayor's public appeal for the Greenbelt community to work with him on police reform to be honest, transparent and heartfelt. Byrd's pledge to work with his "colleagues on the city council, with staff and with the police department" to "get this right" was unifying, not divisive as Mr. Rogers contends. In contrast, it is Mr. Rogers who is being divisive by portraying any move toward considering change as a significant threat to officers and public safety.

Mr. Rogers said he does not condone using politics "in a way to negatively misrepresent or mischaracterize an issue or group of people." I agree. But I disagree with his implication that the Mayor's article and proposed legislation did such a thing. In fact, Byrd was justifiably careful not to lump our Greenbelt Police Department in with some other departments in the nation that have experienced egregious and continued problems with excessive force. The mayor thanked "all the good men and women of the Greenbelt Police Department that do good work to protect the

people of Greenbelt and that treat our residents and visitors with dignity and respect." Byrd did acknowledge the obvious, that "when it comes to race relations and policing, Minneapolis is not the only city in America with issues."

Given a well-documented (and videoed) nationwide issue with excessive use of force by police disproportionately used against Black people, Mr. Rogers' reflexive opposition to those seeking change is tone-deaf to the real pain being expressed by people across the nation peacefully protesting police violence. Mr. Rogers' hyperbolic assertion that by simply proposing legislation, "battle lines" are now "being drawn in Greenbelt and the result is going to be police vs. everyone" is absurd as evidenced by the many peaceful vigils in Greenbelt attended by all manner of residents, government officials and members of our Greenbelt Police Department. Instead of "battle lines," Greenbelt police officers stood shoulder-to-shoulder with Greenbelt residents at the local vigils in a welcome sign of humility and solidarity.

Now is not the time to employ rhetoric suggestive of further conflict and division. Now is the time for us to come together in good faith to ensure that all members of our community are protected and served by all members of our Greenbelt Police Department. Rather than waiting for a tragedy in our own community to spur action, I applaud Byrd's proactive push to make our great city a model for the nation.

*Katie Pugliese*

**Love This Community**

I've been blessed to live in Old Greenbelt for over 26 years. One of the things I love most about our community is our tradition of activism for justice, espe-

cially on behalf of those whose voice is silenced by unthinking bigotry. Each of us should be comfortable with our own individuality, race and religious or political preferences, etc. As long as preferences are expressed peacefully, with no animosity towards contrary views, that's an ideal.

God loves us all. We ought to love one another. Even those who have failed us. Love doesn't mean approval, but it does mean hope that the person chooses the best path from here onward and minimizes his harm toward others and himself. Love the 95 percent of each ethnic group or gender who never violate the rights of another, but love also those who have failed us. Love those who favor a different balance of governmental versus individual spending as the best means of progress for all.

Love George Floyd, even if he had been flawed in his difficult past. Love Officer Chauvin, even if a jury rightly sends him to prison. Love a foolish intoxicated man, Rayshard Brooks, who resisted police in Atlanta, Georgia, and died at the hands of an officer who may also be justly sentenced to prison. Love that officer even as he is held fully accountable.

And love more than half a million law enforcement officers nationwide who faithfully protect and serve daily under very difficult and dangerous circumstances you and I don't have to face. It is mostly because of their service that we have that security and the precious right of peaceful protest. We have seen the results of lawlessness recently, and that is not what protesters want, and it is not what Greenbelters want.

I hope that a Greenbelter in a MAGA hat passing by another Greenbelter wearing a Black Lives Matter T-shirt at Roosevelt Center will smile, greet each

other warmly, and possibly pause for an energetic, but totally respectful chat, then continue their day thoroughly appreciative of each other's good will. I hope a police officer greeting any group of teens in front of Generous Joe's will be met with sincerely friendly greetings and maybe some high fives.

You may say I'm dreamin', but I'm not the only one. I hope some day you will...

You all decide how that thought should end.

*Tom Fishbeck*

**Thanks to Co-op Staff**

Dan Gillotte and the entire staff of the Greenbelt Co-op Supermarket deserve major thanks and kudos for all of their wonderful work during this difficult time. I'm writing in particular, though, to thank them for setting up online ordering and curbside pickup so quickly and keeping it working so well!

I am so grateful that they've made it possible to continue shopping at our beloved Co-op in a way that minimizes the health risks to both customers and staff, without putting extra people (e.g., outside contractors) at risk. Even in the absence of a pandemic, this added level of service and convenience would have been a fantastic development. But given the current COVID-19 situation, it is truly a gift to the community.

Thank you, Dan! Thank you, Co-op staff!

*Adena Galinsky*

**See and Know**

Published in 1940, Richard Wright's novel Native Son paints a vivid image of the racial climate in America. Set amid a driving blizzard – metaphor intended – Wright detailed the pic-

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# Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, [www.greenbeltmd.gov/police](http://www.greenbeltmd.gov/police)  
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

**Stabbing**  
June 7, 3:46 p.m., Crescent Road near Kenilworth Avenue. Officers responded to a report of a stabbing and located a man suffering from an apparent stab wound to his upper leg. He said he was involved in a verbal altercation with an acquaintance and then fled to avoid further confrontation. He passed by another man, who stabbed him in the leg for unknown reasons and fled toward Kenilworth Avenue. The injured man was transported to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

**Reckless Endangerment**  
June 7, 11:59 p.m., 6126 Breezewood Drive. A witness observed a black Ford Mustang pull into the parking lot, where the driver displayed a handgun and fired a single shot into the air. He fled on Breezewood Drive toward Edmonston Road.

**Fraud**  
June 5, 11:11 a.m., 7600 Ora Glen Drive. A woman placed a letter containing a money order in the mail at the Greenbelt Post Office in April. It was later discovered that the name on the money order had been changed and it was cashed by an unknown person.

June 6, 12:15 p.m., 6226 Greenbelt Road. Two men entered Capital One Bank and attempted to cash fraudulent checks. When the bank confirmed they were fraudulent, the men fled. Charges are pending on two men possibly involved.

**Burglary**  
June 5, 5:25 a.m., 6500 Capitol Drive. Entry to the Capitol Cadillac dealership was made by breaking a door. Nothing appeared to have been taken.  
June 10, 7:26 a.m., 5904 Cherrywood Terrace. Officers re-

sponded to a report of a burglary of a vacant apartment. An adult was located and identified and then sent on his way. Charges are pending.

**Vandalism**  
June 5, 9 a.m., 99 Centerway. The skateboard park was vandalized using spray-paint.  
June 8, 11:57 p.m., 9106 Edmonston Court. The lock to the front door of a residence was vandalized.  
June 10, 11:20 a.m., 9126 Springhill Lane. The front window of an apartment dwelling was broken out.

**Vehicle Crime**  
A white 2003 Ford F-350 pickup truck with Maryland tags 2DG4784 was taken from the 5900 block Cherrywood Lane.  
A purse, sunglasses and prescription medicine were taken from an unlocked vehicle in Buddy Attick Park and an iPad was taken from a possibly unlocked vehicle in the 6700 block Village Park Drive.

Windows were broken out in three vehicles prior to thefts. A carry bag and can of disinfectant were taken from Ora Glen Drive near Ora Court; a wallet and personal documents were taken from the 7200 block Hanover Drive; and a jar of change, cash app card and driver's license from the 8200 block Mandan Court.

Four attempted thefts occurred when windows were broken out and vehicles rummaged through but nothing appeared to have been taken at 7807 Mandan Road, Morrison Drive near Frankfort Drive, Mandan Road near Mandan Court, and Edmonston Road near Edmonston Court.  
Vandalism occurred at 9160 Edmonston Road, where a front passenger window was broken out.

## My Perspective

# Now Is the Time to Discuss How To Protect the Rights of Citizens

by René Sewell-Rayson

I was a passenger in a car with a friend who did a rolling stop through a stop sign. I reminded her that the area is frequently patrolled by police and she could get a ticket. “Yeah, I could, but you will probably be shot.” She’s white. I’m black.  
She spoke these words prior to George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery. There had been enough headlines: 12-year-old Tamir Rice shot to death playing in a park; Atatiana Jefferson shot inside her home as she played video games with her nephew; Botham Jean eating ice cream in his apartment, Philando Castile shot in front of his child. Unfortunately, the list goes on.  
The killing of black folks is a public health crisis; it is a societal crisis. It requires – no, it demands – that we as a community respond holistically. It demands that our community do an inventory of police procedures

and practices. It demands that de-escalation of critical incidents training be ongoing. When a volcano erupts it is not usually the first sign. It is just that earlier rumblings were ignored. While local stories of police behavior do not rise to the level of an investigation, we count those as rumblings prior to an eruption.  
A reader asked if police reform is a reasonable proposal or a political ploy? When First Amendment Rights to protest are shrouded in tear-inducing clouds on television and the debate becomes whether it was tear gas or pepper spray. Or when the right of peaceful protest erodes before our eyes on national TV. Or when we see a police force in military gear and protestors have become combatants and “to serve and protect” is no longer practiced. Or the failure to prove guilt (malice) in the Freddie Gray incident is construed as innocence.

Or when we witness the callous inaction of officers while another officer kneels on a human being’s neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds as he cries out “I can’t breathe.” It demands a Greenbelt Fair and Just Policing Act.  
Debate the finer points of the law. Protect the rights of all citizens. Recognize the implicit bias that informs our behaviors and be intentional in calling it out. Silence is no defense. Rules governing police behavior buried in a handbook do not substitute for a law that clearly defines a resident’s rights. As per the writer’s reference, The Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights “protects law enforcement personnel from investigation and prosecution during performance of their duties.” So, Mr. Mayor, Greenbelt City Council, the police department and citizens, let the conversations begin.

## VIGIL continued from page 1

7 p.m., to be held on the Spellman Overpass spanning the Baltimore Washington Parkway. The other Juneteenth event, called the Greenbelt Juneteenth Emancipation Celebration, will be held on Saturday, June 20 at 7 p.m. This event will take place outside the Community Clinic, 9220 Springhill Lane, and is sponsored by the Greenbelt Black History Committee and the Franklin Park Community Pride Committee. According to Wikipedia, Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day and Cel-Liberation Day, is celebrated annually on June 19 and commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union general Gordon Granger read orders in Galveston, Texas, that all previously enslaved people in Texas were free.



PHOTO BY ZIVARE STRIBLING

People gather for the candlelight vigil at Ora Glen and Hanover Parkway in Greenbelt East on Saturday, June 13.



*The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.*  
*Call 1-866-411-TIPS.*  
*People may anonymously report suspected drug activity by calling the Drug Tip Line at 240-542-2145.*

## FORUM continued from page 1

Police officers would be required to intervene to stop excessive or unnecessary force used by another officer. Byrd’s proposal contains numerous other policies relating to limiting the use of force.  
Byrd’s proposal also contains language addressing transparency by, among other things, prohibiting Greenbelt officers from turning off their body cameras and requiring the city to make known to the public within 72 hours any serious use of force, identifying the officers involved. In order to improve oversight of the city police department, a civilian police accountability

board would be established and would have the authority to investigate complaints of police misconduct. Additional policy proposals ban military vehicles, ban racial profiling, eliminate the five-day waiting period before an officer can be interviewed in an investigation, expand mental health resources and prohibit the hiring of officers with a history of serious misconduct.  
Anyone wishing to participate in the virtual dialogue must RSVP by email to [colinabyrd@gmail.com](mailto:colinabyrd@gmail.com), giving the name of the participant. A link will be emailed to participants on Friday, June 26 at 5 p.m.

### Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).





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**ROOM WANTED.** \$750, flexible. Professional, non-smoking female, 50+ seeks own room in historic Greenbelt. Voting for Biden. Strictly following COVID -19 guidelines. Please call: 240-593-0444

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A) Install a hardwood basketball court in the front yard and cement tennis court in the back yard.  
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D) Call Dennis at Lawn and Order at 240-264-7638  
Answer to last week’s quiz is A, B, C and D.

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Classified Ads

Drop ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building). Contact the ad desk at 301-474-4131 or ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 4 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 8 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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GREENBELT WAS THE FIRST OF THREE PLANNED GARDEN TOWNS BUILT AND OWNED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DURING THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT. IT WAS A NEW DEAL EXPERIMENT IN COMMUNITY PLANNING. OF NOTE TO URBAN PLANNERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD THE 885 ORIGINAL HOMES WERE BUILT IN A SERIES OF CLUSTERS, JOINED BY INTERIOR WALKS AND CIRCULING CENTRAL BUSINESS, CIVIC AND RECREATION FACILITIES. GREENBELT WAS INCORPORATED JUNE 1, 1937 AS THE FIRST MARYLAND CITY WITH COUNCIL - MANAGER GOVERNMENT. IN 1952 THE RESIDENTS OF THE COMMUNITY FORMED A COOPERATIVE AND PURCHASED MOST OF THE GOVERNMENT BUILT HOUSES. BY 1954 THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAD SOLD ALL DEVELOPED PROPERTY AND MOST VACANT LAND WHILE MANY NEW NEIGHBORHOODS ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN THE PRESENT CITY. THE ORIGINAL PLANNED COMMUNITY CONTINUES AS A COOPERATIVE.  
PRINCE GEORGES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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# Letters continued from page 8

es of society which quite literally covered and suffocated Black America. Eighty years ago Wright portrayed a young black man named Bigger Thomas. Eighty years in which a racial wealth gap resulting from intentional political action persists and a cycle of police brutality and mass incarceration continues. Eighty years since Wright declared “the mere act of understanding Bigger Thomas will be a thawing out of icebound impulses, a dragging of the sprawling forms of dread out of the night of fear into the light of reason, an unveiling of the unconscious ritual of death in which we, like sleep-walkers, have participated so dreamlike and thoughtlessly.” Bigger Thomas is Black America. Wright’s notion of “icebound impulses,” and society’s participation as “sleep-walkers” in an “unconscious ritual of death” represent prejudice and an often collective silence on racial injustice.

At the end of the novel Wright urges “that we see and know.” We are at this crossroads today – and we can no longer be bystanders. As Greenbelters, we often pride ourselves on being progressive and inclusive. “See and know.” Wright urges individuals to actively view and value Black America. To learn about and understand Black America. It will not bring lives back or solve societal problems overnight. But to “see and know” is where we must start. Over the coming days I encourage us as a city to stay informed, to acknowledge the disparities in our country – and our own community – to educate ourselves, to find ways to advocate for legislative change, to have uncomfortable yet necessary conversations with our neighbors, children and strangers. In the court case that closes the novel, Bigger’s attorney argues, “you cannot kill this man ... for we have made it plain that we do not recognize he lives.” Bigger may have been fictional but George Floyd – and so many others – are not. Let us “see and know,” let us be active participants in dismantling systemic racism, not just now, but until this change we so desperately need arrives. For 401 years the actions and inactions of American society have said Black Lives Don’t Matter. Let us now do our part in ensuring society does in fact recognize Black Lives Matter.

Ian Gleason

## Witness to Incidents

The recent news about police has brought to mind two instances that I had about five years ago to witness Greenbelt Police officers in action with African Americans.

The first was one afternoon at the Labor Day Festival. I was staffing the Baha’i button-making booth across from the ice cream booth, and I saw a group of three young teenagers at the end of the row hurling a football back and forth, frequently missing. Noting the many festivalgoers passing by, including the elderly and children in strollers, a man from our booth went over and suggested to the young men that someone could get hurt. They continued their play, however, so we contacted the festival authorities, who called the police, who were conveniently stationed two rows away at their

table in front of Cedars of Lebanon.

A few minutes later, we saw two uniformed officers, one Black and one White, stroll around the corner into the pedestrian walkway at the opposite end from the young men, ambling past our booth as if they were looking for the funnel cakes. The youth took no notice of their appearance, but when the officers reached them, we saw them converse amiably for a few minutes, after which the budding athletes took their football and headed off in the direction of the open fields behind the gym.

Some months later, I witnessed a very loud and vehement argument between a man and a woman in front of a neighbor’s home. One person had a car, and drove it away and then back

again in an erratic manner, and got out and the two continued screaming at each other. As the argument escalated, I feared it would lead to violence, and I and another neighbor called the Greenbelt Police. Watching from my window, I did not hear any siren or see any police car. Instead, I saw two officers come around the corner at a distance, walking in the direction of the couple at a calm pace. By the time the officers arrived to speak with them, the couple had quieted down and had turned their attention to their approach. A conversation ensued, after which the one with the car drove calmly away and the other one went inside the house.

Nancy Joy Allchin

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# Co-op’s Rays on the Roof Completes Major Milestone

by Cathie Meetre

On Friday, June 12, the Greenbelt Consumer Cooperative signed off with its contractor on the first completed element in the Rays on the Roof project that was only a dream a mere 18 months before. On final completion of the new roof, Project Manager Steve Skolnik thanked the contractor, Adelphia Contracting, citing their willingness to collaborate to get the job done and their attention to detail and craftsmanship. The road had been long, the result successful.

In January 2019, the Co-op kicked off its Rays on the Roof campaign. With a much-deteriorated roof originally installed in the 1960s and updated several times since, the store was fighting leaks, facing a growing repair bill and risking major damage to store infrastructure. Co-op is responsible for the physical fabric of the store, including replacing major building components even though the building is rented. Co-op faces stiff competition from cut-price stores and chain pharmacies, leaving it short of funds for major projects.

**The Solar Option**

As the urgent need for a new roof came into focus, so did the idea of solar power. Electricity is a significant expense – powering refrigeration, space cooling, heat distribution and lighting. Though first contemplated earlier and shelved for cost reasons, solar panel efficiency has since increased and cost decreased. New roofing standards include insulation (the original roof was minimally insulated), making the store more energy efficient so



PHOTO BY CATHIE MEETRE

**Using appropriate social distancing methods, Steve Skolnik (left) hands the check for the final roof payment to John Psaromatis, president of Adelphia Contracting on the completion of Co-op’s new roof.**

solar can supply an even larger fraction of power needs.

**The Campaign Begins**

The store began an ambitious and daring campaign – to get, in short order, both a grant from the state to help with the cost and donations and loans from citizens to finance a match by the community. In three months, the store raised capital in loans and donations of over \$400K and applied for a state grant of \$350K for the solar component.

The project moved forward steadily. Skolnik, with decades of leadership in construction, volunteered as project manager and Dorrie Bates, who worked on the Co-op’s earlier grant, became the state liaison. Adelphia Contracting was selected as the roofing contractor and the process began. But the fast start was followed by delays in getting county building permits, pushing the start to win-

ter when weather began impacting progress.

Despite this, the roof closed out under initial estimates because contingency funds set aside to address hidden problems in the underlying roof were not needed.

**Solar Struggles**

On the solar side, early promising progress also hit road blocks which fortuitously seem to have cleared the same week the roof was completed. The Maryland State Assembly awarded the grant in principle in 2019, but as the paperwork moved through the process, it appeared that because the store was leased, the store owner was required to indemnify the state if the property was sold. Because his agreement with Co-op specifically stated the solar array was Co-op property, he justifiably refused to sign. With resolution delayed by COVID-19, the project was stalled until just this week, when the gentle but relentless pressure kept up by Bates resulted in the state removing the owner signature requirement. Bates is hopeful that the grant will be funded in July.

**Solar to Move Forward**

Thus Skolnik can again don his jaunty hard hat and set the solar contractor in motion. Solar may also take some months because county approvals and coordination with Pepco are required – completion is likely no earlier than fall.

Though repaying the loans absorbs most savings initially, some savings remain and with zero roof repairs, the Co-op bottom line is better even during the remaining nine years of payments. The solar array’s lifespan is 25 years plus, so in 2030, the array’s full production goes to offset costs. This far-sighted investment helps preserve a viable Co-op for future residents.

Greenbelters are encouraged to continue to contribute to the Rays on the Roof campaign through cash register donations.

For information on Rays on the Roof, check out the Co-op website at [Greenbelt.coop](http://Greenbelt.coop).

# Ridge Road Was All Abuzz: House-hunting Bees Helped

by Shawn Hoffman

Nicole Hoffman, a rising first grader at Greenbelt Elementary School, discovered a swarm of bees on the communal parking spots in the 44 Court of Ridge Road. Unsure of what to do, but knowing we didn’t want the bees killed, we sought the advice of a local bee specialist, Dr. Suzanne Batra, who used to work at the Smithsonian and at the Bee Lab for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Batra agreed to come take a look and immediately identified the bees as honey bees.

Batra explained that swarms leave the nest when the population becomes too large, or if something happens to the nest. A queen goes with them and most of the swarm stays to protect the queen while the scout bees fly about looking for a new site to build another nest. At her suggestion, we contacted a local beekeeper to come take the bees to a safe location where they could build their new nest without fear of it being destroyed by well-meaning humans.

We found a list of beekeepers in Prince George’s County through the website of the Maryland State Beekeepers Association. A local beekeeper, Aaron Hughes, came out with his ap-

prentice, Pamela Banks, to collect the bees.

Hughes and Banks sprayed around the bees with sugar water to calm them, and proceeded to scoop and guide the bees into their boxes. Once the queen bee was in the box, most of the other bees joined too, as they will follow her scent.

Once the queen and her bees were in the box, the keepers took some time to explain to our socially distanced crowd of kids and adults all about the bees and how they would be taking them to Hughes’s yard where an available hive box awaited them. Hughes explained that he does not bottle the honey from his bees, but provides them with a safe location to protect the dwindling bee population.

It was truly an interesting and exciting experience and we all learned a lot.

If you ever see a honey bee swarm, do not kill it. Instead, contact either of these fine (and local) beekeepers: Aaron Hughes (Seabrook) at 301-459-5991 or Pamela Banks (Greenbelt) at 213-247-7646. Beekeepers in Maryland are very interested in saving honey bees, especially successful colonies that grow strong enough to swarm.



**Beekeepers scoop the bees into a box for transport to a safe location.**

- Photos by Shawn Hoffman



**The swarm of honey bees as originally spotted**



PHOTO BY JIM SHAFER

**A barred owl resting in a tree on Greenknolls Place**

**How Are You Coping?**

Send us your stories and photos, showing what you are doing during forced time at home. We will publish a selection of these submissions during the coming weeks. Email [editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com](mailto:editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com).

## Greenbelt Students are GREAT!

Congratulations to all Greenbelt students on finishing the year.

### CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2020!

Have a safe and happy summer!

~ Greenbelt Parents

Paid for by Greenbelt Elementary School PTA

A graphic of colorful fireworks exploding in the sky, with stars and confetti scattered around.

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